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P L A N
OF THE
Universal Register-Office
IN THE STRAND,

And of that in

Bishopsgate-Street, near Cornhill,
Both by JOHN FIELDING Esq; and Co.
Established in the Year 1749.

The EIGHTH EDITION.

H. Fielding (Am.)



L O N D O N,
Printed in the Year MDCCLV.
[Price Three-pence.]

ADVERTISEMENT



To the Attentive READER.

Universal Register-Office, in the Strand, and Bishopsgate-Street.

ON February the 19th, 1749. was opened, opposite Cecil-Street, in the Strand, the Universal Register-Office, by Messires *Fielding* and company. An Undertaking which, if thoroughly examined, will appear to be entirely new to this and every other Kingdom, and to deserve the Attention of the Public to the highest Degree. The Business of it may be best seen by Perusal of this Plan, to be had at the said Office; and for its Utility, we appeal to the great Numbers of all Ranks, who have already received Benefit from it. But since our Office has been opened, various others, in Imitation of our Plan, have been erected under the same Name; and several of the old *Intelligence-Offices* have changed their Names into that of *Register-Office*. Others have been imposed upon by our Imitators, who not being contented to pirate our Plan, do also privately assume the Name of *Fielding*, and the Errors of these Offices are frequently charged to our Account. By this Means many Letters that used to come safe to Hand, by being directed to the Proprietors of the Universal Register-Office only, have miscarried; and some Persons have been misled by the Similitude of the Names of Offices; We therefore desire all those who have any Occasion to apply to the Universal Register-Office, by Letter or Message, that they would direct to *John Fielding, Esq;* at the Universal Register-Office, Strand, or Bishopsgate-Street, which likewise belongs to us; but we have neither Property in, nor Correspondence with, any other Office, that in *Dublin* excepted.

P. S. As some Clerks have been discharged for Abuse of Trust and other Misdemeanours, and have opened Offices in Imitation of ours, insinuating that they still belong to us; We beg Leave to guard the Public against this Kind of Deceit, by assuring them, that all other Offices built on our Plan, have been erected long since ours, and are Counterfeits.

JOHN FIELDING,

One of the PROPRIETORS.



ALL Ladies and Gentleman who have Occasion for our Assistance in any Particular, are desired at first to come to the Office themselves, where they will find proper Rooms for their Accommodations, and proper Persons to attend them : for it is necessary to be very exact in the Description of the thing wanted, in order to be properly supplied ; and the doing this by Messengers and Letters has occasioned great Confusion ; tho' when the Public are once acquainted with the Method of transacting Business here, it may be done with as much Ease by Letter as by their Presence ; and when they enclose the Shilling for the Register, they would do right to mention it on the Outside of the Letter. One Proprietor, with the Clerks, attend at this Office from Nine in the Morning till Seven in the Evening.

N. B. This Office corresponds with that in *Ireland* ; by which Means, all Persons who have Business to transact there may execute it by Application here.

To the PUBLIC.

WHEREAS great Numbers of Houses and Lodgings both furnished and unfurnished, in Town and Country, are daily let by being entered at the *Universal Register-Office* in the *Strand*, and *Bishopsgate-street*, and many Estates, Goods, Curiosities, Animals, and other things daily sold by the same means; the Landlords, Tenants, Buyers, Sellers, &c. of which are often remiss in giving Notice to the Office when the said Houses and Lodgings are let, and when the said Estates, Goods, Curiosities, Animals, &c. are sold: The Proprietors therefore entreat the Public to be more punctual on these Occasions, as it will save both Expence and Trouble to many, who for want of this Punctuality are sent by the Office to see both Houses and Lodgings that are already let, and to purchase Estates and other things that are already sold, by our means. And, as the Errors of our Imitators are often charged to our Account, by Persons imagining that all the Register Offices belong to us, and as Mistakes sometimes happen from the Imperfectness of Directions, it is the earnest Desire of the Proprietors, that if any Gentleman or Lady, or any other Person whatever, applying to the *Universal Register-Office* in the *Strand*, or *Bishopsgate-street*, should suppose their Business neglected, themselves deceived, or should meet with any Disappointment, Ill-treatment, or Misbehaviour of any kind from the Clerks, or any other Person at or belonging to the said Office, that they would make immediate Complaint to *John Fielding, Esq;* and they will meet with immediate Redress, and see, from the Exactness of our Books, where the Error lies. And as it is from Complaints of this sort that so valuable an Undertaking as is the *Universal Register-Office*, must owe its Progress to Perfection, we hope no Person will spare complaining, however trifling they may think the Occasion, as we shall always think it worth our while to inquire into it and remedy it; Punctuality and Integrity being the very Basis of our Office.

JOHN FIELDING.



A

PLAN

OF THE

Universal Register-Office.



AN is said to be by Nature a social Animal, and this principally appears from two Reasons; first, for that Society alone affords an Opportunity of exerting all the human Faculties; and secondly, as it alone can provide for all the Wants of which our Nature is susceptible. In Society alone, Men can mutually enjoy the Benefit of that vast Variety of Talents with which they are severally endowed; the Members of the Body Corporate, like those of the Natural Body, having their several Uses and Qualifications, all jointly contributing to the Good of the Whole.

If any Society ever hath been, or ever can be so regulated, that no Talent in any of
its

its Members, which is capable of contributing to the general Good, should lie idle and unemployed, nor any of the Wants of its Members which are capable of Relief, should remain unrelieved, that Society might be said to have attained its utmost Perfection. Of this absolute Degree of Perfection, *Aristotle* seems to think it capable; and if this hath never been in Fact attained, the Reason, perhaps, is neither very difficult to assign or to remove.

Before I proceed to the proposed Plan, I shall lay down two Positions as certain:

First, that in Proportion to the Opulence of any Society, the Wants of its Members will be multiplied; and secondly, the more numerous its Members are, the less Likelihood will there be that any of these Wants should remain unsupplied.

The former of these Positions may, perhaps, at first have the Air of a Paradox; but if we consider it in the Case of an individual Person, its Truth will immediately appear; for here we shall plainly perceive his Wants increasing with his Riches. Insomuch that the Wants of a Man worth a single Thousand Pounds bear no Proportion to those of him who is possessed of a hundred times that Sum. The Ethic Writer, indeed, will tell me, that none of these Wants arise from Nature. But let them arise from what they will, they are real, and to supply them is as essential

essential to the Happiness of him who hath, or thinks he hath them, as it is to a Savage to supply any of these few Necessities with which a State of Nature, as some call it, abounds. And yet, with respect to the Philosopher, I shall not doubt to declare the Man with his hundred thousand Pounds in his Pocket, with all his Wants about him, and at the same Time with a Capacity of supplying all these Wants, to be a much happier Being than any poor *Diogenes* whatever.

Now Society itself alone creates all these Wants, and at the same Time alone gives us the Methods of supplying them, by the Invention of what is called Trade or Traffick. And yet as Societies of Men increased into great and populous Cities and large extended Countries, the Politician found something still wanting; and this was a Method of communicating the various Wants and Talents of the Members to each other; by which Means they might be mutually supplied. Hence the Invention of Fairs, Markets, Exchanges, and all other Publick Meetings for carrying on Traffick and Commerce between Men, in which the common and ordinary Wants of the Society are from Time to Time provided for.

All these Methods, however, are so far defective, as they fail to be universal; for to the Perfections of a Society it is required,
that

that none of the various Talents of the Members shall remain unknown and unemployed, nor any of their Wants unsupplied. This, as it seems, can only be attained, by providing some Place of universal Resort, where all the Members of the Society may communicate all their mutual Wants and Talents to each other. So that no Person may want what another is capable of supplying him with, provided he is able and willing to pay the Price.

In large and populous Cities, and wide extended Communities, it is most probable that every human Talent is dispersed somewhere or other among the Members; and consequently every Person who stands in Need of that Talent, might supply his Want, if he knew where to find it; but to know this is the Difficulty, and this Difficulty still increases with the Largeness of the Society. Let us illustrate this by the Case of a Shopkeeper, who deals in various Commodities: The more Goods he hath in his Warehouse, unless they are so disposed that he can easily find them, the greater is his Confusion and Inability to satisfy the Demands of his Customers.

The ingenious *Montaigne*, in his 34th Essay, has the following Passage:

“ My Father, who, for a Man that had
 “ no other Advantages than Experience only,
 6 “ and

“ and his own natural Parts, was neverthe-
 “ less of a very clear Judgment, has formerly
 “ told me, that he once had Thoughts of
 “ endeavouring to introduce this Practice,
 “ that there might be in every City a cer-
 “ tain Place assigned, to which such as stood
 “ in Need of any thing might repair, and
 “ have their Business entered by an Officer
 “ appointed for that Purpose. As for Ex-
 “ ample, one inquires for a Chapman to buy
 “ my Pearl; I inquire for one that has Pearls
 “ to sell: Such a one wants Company to go
 “ to *Paris*: Such a one inquires for a Ser-
 “ vant of such a Quality; such a one for a
 “ Master: such a one inquires for such an
 “ Artificer, some for one Thing, some for
 “ another, every one according to what he
 “ wants. And doubtless these mutual Re-
 “ gisters would be of no contemptible Ad-
 “ vantage to the publick Correspondency
 “ and Intelligence: For there are evermore
 “ Conditions that hunt after one another,
 “ and for want of knowing one another’s
 “ Occasions, leave Men in very great Ne-
 “ cessity.”

Upon these Principles an Office was erect-
 ed on *February 19, 1749*, in the *Strand*,
 near *Southampton-street*, opposite *Cecil-street*,
 and now removed for want of Room to the
 Corner of *Castle-court*, and opposite to the
 New Exchange in the *Strand*: The De-
 sign

sign of which Office is to bring the World,
 as it were, together into one Place. Here
 the Buyer and the Seller, Borrower and Len-
 der, Landlord and Tenant, the Tutor and
 the Pupil, the Master, the Scholar and Usher,
 the Rector and Curate, the Man of Taste
 and the ingenious Artificer, the Virtuoso and
 Curiosities, the Traveller and a Companion,
 the Tradesman and Partner, the Master and
 Apprentice or Book-keeper, the Master and
 the Servant, &c. are sure to meet: Here
 ingenious Persons of all kinds will meet with
 those who are ready to employ them, and
 the Curious will be supplied with every
 thing which it is in the Power of Art to pro-
 duce. In a word, no useful Talent in the
 Society will be idle, nor will any Man long
 want a Seller and Purchaser of what he is
 desirous either to purchase or dispose of:
 whereas at present many a Man is starving,
 while in the Possession of Talents which
 would be highly serviceable to others, who
 could and would well reward him, and se-
 veral Persons are possessed of divers Goods
 and Curiosities, which others are in vain in-
 quiring after. Servants who can have the
 best of Characters remain out of Place, while
 Gentlemen are obliged in haste to accept of
 Persons very slightly recommended: In the
 same manner the Buyer and the Seller are
 groping after each other in the Dark, and
 often, after great Expence of Time, Trou-
 ble,

ble, and Money, to no manner of Purpose. But without endeavouring to recommend a Scheme to the Public, from which they will manifestly receive so much Benefit, I shall here explain to them the Nature and Plan of this Office, under some of its most material Articles.

I. In the Register of Estates to be sold, are set down the Quantity and Quality of the Estate, *viz.* whether Freehold, Leasehold, Copyhold; whether in Manors, Lands, Houses, Rents, &c. the County in which it lies, the nearest City or Market Town, with the Price and every other Particular by which the Seller thinks proper to recommend it, either with or without the Parish in which it lies, and with or without the Name of the Estate, or of the Seller, at his Option. This is done at the Price of One Shilling. And, any Gentleman who wants to buy an Estate in any County, in *Yorkshire* for Instance, naming the Nature of the Estate which he would purchase, is in a Minute informed whether there be any such Estate registered; and if not, for One Shilling his Direction is entered in the Office, and an Account immediately sent to him the Moment any thing like what he requires is offered to be registered.

II. In the Article of Estates, Houses, and Lodgings to let, we register, if it be an Estate, its Nature, Quantity, Rent, Situation, &c. If a House or Lodging, we mention whether furnished or unfurnished, and Number of Rooms. If in Town, the Street in which it stands, with all its Conveniencies; If in the Country, the Town or Parish; whether any and what Garden; whether Out-houses; the Situation, Prospect, Accommodations for Travelling; with every other Particular, with the Rent if permitted. The Expence of which is One Shilling.

The public Utility of this Article is almost too obvious to be pointed out. Many Persons, by this means, will prevent the losing Weeks, Months, and sometimes a whole Season in letting their Lodgings; as on the other hand, Gentlemen and Ladies may in a Minute's Time survey all the Houses and Lodgings which are to be let in several Streets in *London* and *Westminster*, and in a whole Parish or Town in the Country. For want of which Conveniency, they are at present obliged either to take long fruitless Walks and Rides themselves, or to trust to the Taste (too much perhaps sometimes to the Fidelity) of an Acquaintance, or a Servant; and after having contracted for a disagreeable Situation, discover to their Sorrow that they have missed the Place in which they would have been accommodated entirely

entirely to their Satisfaction. And as there are many Families both in Town and Country, to which Boarders would be very acceptable, either for the sake of their Company, or for other Reasons, this Article is also registered here: Nor is this of less Use than the rest; for there are many single Persons of small Fortunes who would be glad to be admitted into decent regular Families on this Footing.

III. Under the 3d Article are registered all Manner of Securities for Money, whether Real or Personal; and also the Names of those who have large or smaller Sums to dispose of; so that the Borrower or Lender are at once brought together, without Expence or Delay, and at the same time with the utmost Secrecy; for this Article may be transacted in the Office without any of the Clerks or Proprietors knowing the Name of the Borrower. And as several Persons who are willing to advance small Sums on personal Securities, on very reasonable Terms, are registered, so those who want to borrow may be assured, if they cannot be supplied here, they will fail every where else. Annuities of all kinds, and Insurances for Lives, for one or more Years, may be procured here, as likewise of Ships and Merchandizes.

IV. Places and Employments to be sold, or anywise disposed of, whether Ecclesiastical,

cal, Civil, or Military ; such as Chaplainships, Curacies, Patent-places, or others which the Possessor can obtain Leave to dispose of, in any Branch of the Civil Government, and Commissions of all Kinds in the Army.

V. Apprentices who want Masters in any Trade, and Masters who want Apprentices. Here the Trade chosen, the Age and Qualifications of the Youth, the Money to be given, and the Terms required are entered. So that for One Shilling a Master may have the Choice of a hundred Apprentices, and a Parent of as many Masters for his Child.

VI. Masters and Mistresses who teach any Science or Art : If they keep a School, its Situation is registered, what they teach, what their Price, &c. If they are willing to teach Abroad ; their several Recommendations ; what they teach ; as Languages, Music, Dancing, Fencing, &c. Their Prices, &c.

VII. Partners in Trade. The Sums ready to be advanced, and Conditions ; with every Particular.

VIII. Servants of all Kinds, such as Riders, Book-Keepers, and Journeymen, Stewards and Clerks ; Domestic Servants, as House-Stewards, Gentlemen, Valets, Butlers, Cooks, Gardeners, Coachmen, Footmen, Grooms,

Grooms, Postilions, &c. Governesses, House-keepers, Waiting-maids, Cook-maids, House-maids, Laundry-maids, Dry and Wet Nurses, &c. &c. Under this Head are inserted the Name, Place of Abode, Qualification, Age, married or single, whether had the Small-Pox, what Place lived in last, and how long, when left it, and the Reasons why; with every Particular of their Characters, and by whom to be given. And the Public may be assured, that the utmost Care will be taken to prevent any Imposition; and that none will be registered in this Office who give the least suspicious Account of themselves, and who have lived in any disreputable Places. The great Use this Article alone will be of to the Public, is submitted to their Consideration: For the Fidelity with which it is executed, we may appeal to the Experience of Thousands who have been supplied at the Office; from whom we daily receive Letters of Thanks.

IX. All Sorts of Carriages are registered here, as Coaches, Landaus, Post and other Chaises. Likewise all manner of Animals for Use or Pleasure, as Horses, Dogs, Wild Beasts, Birds, &c. And Curiosities of every kind.

X. Lastly, Conveniencies for Travelling in all Manners by Sea or Land, Ships, whi-
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ther bound and when depart, with the Terms for Passengers. Stage Coaches; the Inns they put up; the Days and Hours they depart and arrive at, with their Prices. Bye and returned Coaches for *Bath*, and all other Places; when expected to arrive; when set out; and their Prices. Likewise all Methods of conveying Goods, either by Land or Water Carriage; Companions for Post-chaises, &c.

This Article, surely, needs neither Explanation nor Recommendation. How advantageous on the one hand must it be to Captains of Ships and Masters of Stage or Bye Coaches, at so trifling a Cost as One Shilling, to be certain of never missing a Passenger; as on the other hand, how infinitely easy must it be to the Public, by the Trouble of sending to a Place, which as it is in the very Middle of the Town, cannot be far off, to know every Convenience of Travelling to the Place they are destined to?

These are the principal Articles already opened in this Office, to which such Additions are daily made as would be tedious to enumerate. We may therefore say upon the whole, that be the Wants of Persons ever so singular or extraordinary, 'tis highly probable they may have them supplied by inquiring at this Office; and we doubt not but the Public will give all due Encouragement to an Undertaking so visibly calculated for their
Good;

Good, and which proposes to serve them at so cheap a Rate.

On our Side, they may be assured, that as the Proprietors of this Office are Gentlemen, and Men experienced in Business; so it will be executed with the utmost Care, Regularity, and Fidelity, and as much Secrecy always as shall be desired by the Parties themselves.

The great Utility of this Office, when its Correspondence is become universal, must be apparent to every one. Indeed, its Use consists chiefly in its Universality; and this is entirely in the Power of the Public. In this, therefore, as in every Scheme for the Common Good, if the Wise and Public-spirited will take the Lead, they will be sure of being followed by all the rest.



T O T H E
Faithful, Honest and Industrious.

A Good Character is valuable to every one, but especially to Servants, for it is their Bread; and without it they cannot be admitted into a creditable Family; and happy it is that the best of Characters is in every one's Power to deserve.

II. Engage yourself cautiously, but stay long in your Place; for long Service shews Worth, as quitting a good Place through Passion is a Folly, which is always repented of too late.

III. Never undertake any Place you are not qualified for; for pretending to what you do not understand, exposes yourself, and what is still worse, deceives them whom you serve.

IV. Preserve your Fidelity; for a faithful Servant is a Jewel, for whom no Encouragement can be too great.

V. Adhere to the Truth; for Falshood is detestable; and he that tells one Lie, must tell twenty more to conceal it.

VI. Be

VI. Be strictly honest ; for it is shameful to be thought unworthy of Trust.

VII. Be modest in your Behaviour ; it becomes your Station, and is pleasing to your Superiors.

VIII. Avoid pert Answers ; for civil Language is cheap, and Impertinence provoking.

IX. Be clean in your Business ; for Slovens and Sluts are disrespectful Servants.

X. Never tell the Affairs of the Family you belong to ; for that is a Sort of Treachery, and often makes Mischief ; but keep their Secrets, and have none of your own.

XI. Live friendly with your Fellow-Servants ; for the contrary destroys the Peace of the House.

XII. Above all Things avoid Drunkenness ; for it is an Inlet to Vice, the Ruin of your Character, and the Destruction of your Constitution.

XIII. Prefer a peaceable Life with moderate Gains, to great Advantages with Irregularity.

XIV. Save your Money ; for that will be a Friend to you in old Age : be not expensive in Dress, nor marry too soon.

XV. Be careful of your Master's Property ; for Wastefulness is a Sin.

XVI. Never swear ; for that is a Crime without Excuse, as there is no Pleasure in it.

XVII. Be

XVII. Be always ready to assist a Fellow-servant; for Good-nature gains the Love of every one.

XVIII. Never stay when sent on a Message; for waiting long is painful to a Master, and a quick Return shews Diligence.

XIX. Rise early; for it is difficult to recover lost Time.

XX. The Servant that often changes his Place, works only to be poor; for the Rolling-stone gathers no Moss.

XXI. Be not fond of increasing your Acquaintance; for Visiting leads you out of your Business, robs your Master of your Time, and often puts you to an Expence you cannot afford; and above all Things take Care with whom you are acquainted; for Persons are generally the better or the worse for the Company they keep.

XXII. When out of Place be cautious where you lodge; for living in a disreputable House puts you upon a footing with those that keep it, however innocent you are yourself.

XXIII. Never go out on your Business without the Knowledge of the Family, lest in your Absence you should be wanted; for Leave is light, and returning punctually at the Time you promise, shews Obedience, and is a Proof of Sobriety.

XXIV. If you are dissatisfied in your Place, mention your Objections modestly to
5 your

your Master or Mistrefs, and give a fair Warning, and don't neglect your Business, nor behave ill in order to provoke them to turn you away; for this will be a Blemish in your Character, which you must always have from the last Place you served.

**** Whoever pays a due Regard to the above Precepts, will be happy in themselves, will never want Friends, and will always meet with the Assistance, Protection and Encouragement of the Proprietors of this Office.*

JOHN FIELDING,

One of the PROPRIETORS.

N. B. These Precepts, which contain the whole Duty of a Servant, are printed on a large Single Sheet, and may be had by any Gentleman or Lady, desirous of giving them a Place in their Servants Hall in the Country, on sending to the Office.

To

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To all PERSONS applying to this  
Office for Employment or Other-  
wise.

**I**F any Person should think their Business neglected, or themselves ill-used by the Clerks of this Office, they are desired to make their Complaint to JOHN FIELDING, *Esq*; Resident-Proprietor, at the Office in the *Strand*, and they will be sure of meeting with immediate Redress: And if they can prove that any Person has been unjustly or unfairly preferred before them, the Proprietors will be obliged to them for such Information. For every one entered on our Books for Employment is supposed to have an absolute Right to the Knowledge of the Place or Employment that is agreeable to their own Characters and Qualifications; and as this Office is intended for the Benefit, Protection and Encouragement of those only who are able and willing to gain an honest Livelihood, every one will find themselves constantly deceived, and lose both their Time and Money, who enter their Names on our Books, without having a Character answerable to what they pretend to.

N. B.

N. B. *If the Complaint be from a Man  
Servant, it must be made on Tuesdays, Thurs-  
days and Saturdays, at One o'Clock ; if a Wo-  
man Servant, on Mondays, Wednesdays and  
Fridays, at the same Hour ; but from a Lady  
or Gentleman, at any Time.*

F I N I S.

177. If the Complaint is from a  
Cancer, it must be made on Tuesday, Thursday,  
Saturday, or Sunday, or on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th,  
11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th,  
or 31st of the Month, (from a Lady)  
in Childbirth, at any Time.

CHIRUR

